

**A SYNTACTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE  
GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF CELIE AND  
SHUG AVERY'S LANGUAGE IN ALICE WALKER'S  
*THE COLOR PURPLE***

**THESIS**



By

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
AIRLANGGA UNIVERSITY**

**2003/2004**

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**Submitted as partial fulfilment of the requirement for Sarjana Degree of  
English Department, Faculty of Letters, Airlangga University.**

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*Life is a foreign language. All men mispronounce it*

*~ Christopher Morley ~*

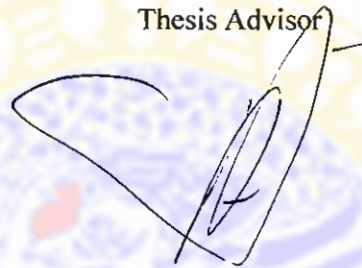


*To My Beloved Family*

Approved to be examined

Surabaya, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2004

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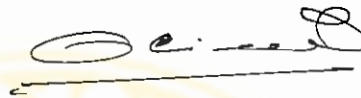
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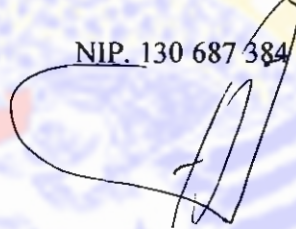
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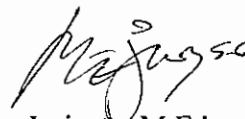
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## Abstract

Black English has unique characters. As one of English variations, Black English is different from Standard English. Black English has its own grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. For some people who do not know Black English well, it is difficult for them when they interact with things that deal with Black English. Especially, for people who love enjoying literary works, sometimes Black English unique features confuse them.

Alice Walker, a Black writer, uses Black English in her novel *The Color Purple*. Most of the characters in this novel utilize Black English because this novel depicts the Black people's life. Celie, as the main character, uses Black English in her sentences when she communicates with other characters such as Albert, Shug Avery, Nettie, Alphonso, Harpo, and Sofia.

This thesis is a piece of research on Black English grammatical features used by Celie and Shug Avery in Walker's novel *The Color Purple*. The writer chooses this novel as the object of the study because she is interested in analysing the grammatical features in Celie and Shug Avery's utterances, which clearly describe the Black English grammatical features. Moreover, the writer wants to find out the most dominant features in Celie and Shug Avery's utterances. In analysing the novel, the writer uses Traugott and Pratt's theory about Black English grammatical features. There are some additional theories from other linguists that are also used by the writer to help her with the analysis.

This thesis is ended with conclusion that all of the Black English grammatical features that are included in Traugott and Pratt's theory are used in the dialogues. Besides, the writer discovers two additional features, which are 'ain't' and 'pronoun'. Furthermore, it is also noted that Celie and Shug Avery's dialogues are dominated by 'inflections' and 'absence of copula'.